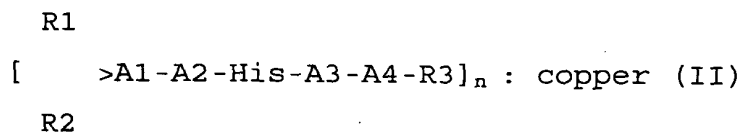


Claims

- 5 1. A composition comprising:
- (a) a peptide complexed with a copper ion; and
- (b) a basic amino acid.

10 2. A composition of claim 1, wherein said peptide
is of the formula 1:



15 Formula 1

 wherein A1 is Gly or absent; A2 is Gly, Lys, Ala,
Ser, or Val; A3 is Lys or Gly; A4 is Trp, (Gly)_n-Trp
where n is from 1 to 4, Pro-Val-Phe-Val, Val-Phe-Val, or
absent; each R1 and R2, independently, is H, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl,
20 C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkyl, or C(=O)E₁, where E₁ is C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀
alkenyl, C₃₋₂₀ alkynyl, phenyl, 3,4-
dihydroxyphenylalkyl, naphthyl, or C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkyl;
provided that when either R1 or R2 is C(=O)E₁, the other
25 must be H; R3 is OH, NH₂, C₁₋₁₂ alkoxy, C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkoxy,
C₁₁₋₂₀ naphthylalkoxy, C₁₋₁₂ alkylamino, C₇₋₁₀
phenylalkylamino, or C₁₁₋₂₀ naphthylalkylamino; and n is 1
or 2.

- 30 3. A composition of claim 1, wherein said
composition is an emulsion and further comprises a non-

ionic emulsifier and said composition is substantially free of ionic emulsifiers.

4. A composition of claim 2, wherein said composition is an emulsion and further comprises a non-ionic emulsifier and said composition is substantially free of ionic emulsifiers.

5. A composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is an emulsion and further comprises an oil soluble anti-oxidant.

6. A composition of claim 5, wherein said composition is an emulsion and further comprises an oil soluble anti-oxidant.

7. A composition comprising:
(a) a peptide complexed with a copper ion; and
(b) a non-ionic emulsifier,
wherein said composition is an emulsion and is substantially free of an ionic emulsifier.

8. A composition of claim 7, wherein said peptide is of the formula 1:

R1

[>A1-A2-His-A3-A4-R3]_n: copper (II)

R2

Formula 1

wherein A1 is Gly or absent; A2 is Gly, Lys, Ala, Ser, or Val; A3 is Lys or Gly; A4 is Trp, (Gly)_n-Trp where n is from 1 to 4, Pro-Val-Phe-Val, Val-Phe-Val, or

absent; each R1 and R2, independently, is H, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkyl, or C(=O)E₁, where E₁ is C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₃₋₂₀ alkynyl, phenyl, 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalkyl, naphthyl, or C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkyl; provided that when either R1 or R2 is C(=O)E₁, the other must be H; R3 is OH, NH₂, C₁₋₁₂ alkoxy, C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkoxy, C₁₁₋₂₀ naphthylalkoxy, C₁₋₁₂ alkylamino, C₇₋₁₀ phenylalkylamino, or C₁₁₋₂₀ naphthylalkylamino; and n is 1 or 2.

9. A composition of claim 7, wherein said composition is an emulsion and further comprises an oil soluble anti-oxidant.

10. A composition of claim 8, wherein said composition is an emulsion and further comprises an oil soluble anti-oxidant.

11. A composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

12. A composition of claim 2, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

13. A composition of claim 4, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

14. A composition of claim 6, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

15. A composition of claim 7, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

16. A composition of claim 8, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

17. A composition of claim 10, wherein said composition has a pH from about 6 to about 8.

18. A composition of claim 1, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$ and said basic amino acid is argenine, histidine, or lysine.

19. A composition of claim 4, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$ and said basic amino acid is argenine, histidine, or lysine.

20. A composition of claim 6, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$ and said basic amino acid is argenine, histidine, or lysine.

21. A composition of claim 14, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$ and said basic amino acid is argenine, histidine, or lysine.

22. A composition of claim 7, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$.

23. A composition of claim 10, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$.

5 24. A composition of claim 17, wherein said peptide is $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-OH]_n:copper(II)$ or $[H_2-Gly-L-His-L-Lys-NH_2]_n:copper(II)$.

10 25. A composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises a gelling agent.

15 26. A composition of claim 7, wherein said composition further comprises a gelling agent.